

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An improved underdrain block for an underdrain system supporting a filter media bed in a liquid filtration system is provided. The underdrain blocks are preferably made of an extrudable polymeric material that is extruded in relatively long sections to provide light weight, strong, easily manufactured underdrain systems having a lower profile than prior art underdrain blocks. The underdrain block comprises an upper wall, side walls, a lower wall, at least one lateral member between the upper wall and the lower wall, at least two chambers within the underdrain block, each chamber being defined by the lateral member, a plurality of upper orifices in the upper wall of the underdrain block, and a plurality of internal orifices in the lateral member. The underdrain block is substantially greater in longitudinal length than a longitudinal distance between the upper orifices. In one embodiment, the underdrain block has rails situated on the upper wall for engaging extruded members, which in turn, have receiving recesses for receiving a layer of porous filter media. In another embodiment, the underdrain block further comprises an air nozzle for achieving an improved distribution of air through a filter bed during air backwashing.